

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 31, 2005. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23, and 25-30 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27 and 29 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27 and 29 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

The specification has been amended to conform the Summary of Invention section to the amended claims.

Information Disclosure Statements and corresponding Forms PTO-1449 were filed on March 7, 2005 and March 18, 2005, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcards bearing the stamp of the Patent and Trademark Office, copies of which are attached hereto. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to return an initialed copy of each of the Forms PTO-1449, indicating the references cited thereon were considered.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,473,783 (*Goshey et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,258 (*Stollfus et al.*), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,862,404 (*Onaga*); and Claims 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by (*Stollfus et al.*) in view of *Onaga*.

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27 and 29 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of independent Claims 1, 9, and 17 will be addressed first.

The aspect of the present invention as set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by at least one other information processing apparatus through the network system. The information apparatus includes management means for managing information of a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus, reception means for receiving, from another information processing apparatus, information of a second shared device used by the other information processing apparatus. The received information includes information of the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition. The apparatus also includes recognition means for recognizing which one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means. The information processing apparatus also includes renewal means for updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by the renewal means and the information of the first shared devices managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are recognizing which one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means, and displaying (a) the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by the renewal means and (b) the information of the first shared device managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means.

Goshey et al. relates to a system for sharing peripheral devices over a network.

The system includes a first computer having at least one peripheral device, and a second computer that is networked to the first computer. The second computer is configured to send a request to use the at least one peripheral device over the network, and the request is processed to determine whether the second computer has sharing privileges to use the at least one peripheral device. The first computer is configured to grant access to the request of the second computer if the second computer has the sharing privileges that enable access to the at least one peripheral device. The first computer acts as a server that can share its peripheral devices, and the second computer acts as a client that accesses the server's peripheral devices.

The Office Action states that *Goshey et al.* fails to disclose receiving information including information of the plurality of shared devices, recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated, and changing information on the status or connected condition of the shared device.

Applicant has found nothing in *Goshey et al.* that would teach or suggest recognizing which one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means, and displaying (a) the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by the renewal means and (b) the information of the first shared device managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means, as recited in Claim 1. From the Office Action, it appears that the Examiner does not disagree.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Goshey et al.*, taken alone.

The Office Action cites *Stollfus et al.* and *Onaga* as remedying the deficiencies of

Goshey et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees. *Stollfus et al.* relates to methods for resource administration. *Stollfus et al.* discusses a computer system in which a local server 118 obtains information about a plurality of resources, such as printer 116, generates an HTML page based on the obtained information, and sends the HTML page to a local client 112 for display (Figures 6 and 7).

However, nothing has been found in *Stollfus et al.* that would teach or suggest recognizing which one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means. Further, nothing has been found in *Stollfus et al.* that would teach or suggest displaying (a) the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by the renewal means and (b) the information of the first shared device managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means, as recited in Claim 1.

Onaga relates to a networked system having workstations, file servers and intelligent peripheral devices, which are capable of determining their device status and communicating that status information via a communication line. *Onaga* discusses a device status file on the file server that maintains a pointer to the device status file on the file server. However, nothing has been found in *Onaga* that would teach or suggest recognizing which one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means. Further, nothing has been found in *Onaga* that would teach or suggest displaying (a) the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by the renewal means and (b) the information of the first shared device managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means, as recited in Claim 1.

Applicant therefore submits that a combination of *Goshey et al.*, *Stollfus et al.*, and *Onaga* assuming such combination would even be permissible, also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the *Goshey et al.*, *Stollfus et al.* and *Onaga* whether considered separately or in combination.

Independent Claims 9 and 17 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Goshey et al.*, *Stollfus et al.* and *Onaga* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The rejection of independent Claims 25, 27, and 29 will now be addressed.

The aspect of the present invention as set forth in Claim 25 is an information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and for managing a plurality of shared devices. The apparatus includes management means for managing information of a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus, obtaining means for obtaining, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or a connected condition of a second shared device managed by the other information processing apparatus, and recognition means for recognizing which one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by the obtaining means. The apparatus also includes display means for displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device in accordance with the

information managed by said management means.

For reasons substantially similar to those discussed above in connection with Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in *Stollfus et al.* or *Onaga* that would teach or suggest recognizing which one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by the obtaining means, and displaying (a) the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and (b) information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device in accordance with the information managed by said management means, as recited in Claim 25.

For at least this reason, Applicant submits that Claim 25 is clearly patentable over *Stollfus et al.* and *Onaga*.

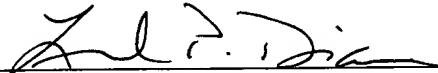
Independent Claims 27 and 29 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 25, and are believed to be patentable over *Stollfus et al.* and *Onaga* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 25.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. P. Diana', written over a horizontal line.

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 523671v1



Mail Stop: Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date 3 / 7 / 05

Mo. Day Yr.
03500.014845

Atty. Docket

Application No. 09/678,893

Sir:

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying:

- ☒ Response to Official Action. dated Dec. 6, 2005
- ☒ Check for \$ 180.00 (claims fee)
- ☐ Petition under 37 CFR 1.136 and Check for \$ _____
- ☐ Notice of Appeal and Check for \$ _____
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and (1) 07 amendments
- ☐ Claim for priority and certified copies of _____ priority applications
- ☐ Issue fee transmittal and Check for \$ _____
- ☐ Other (specify) _____

by placing your receiving date stamp hereon and returning to deliverer.

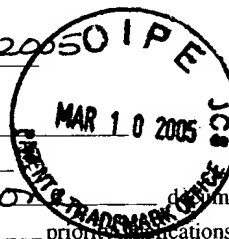
Atty. Fk/wv

Due Date 3 / 6 / 05

* 37 C.F.R. 1.8

Mo. Day Yr.
(Sunday)

FCIS-D-00





Mail Stop: Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date 3 / 21 / 05
Mo. Day Yr.

Atty. Docket 0300-04845

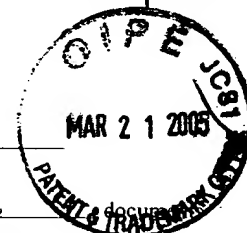
Application No. 09/676,893

Sir:

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying:

- ☐ Response to Official Action. _____
- ☐ Check for \$ _____ (claims fee)
- ☐ Petition under 37 CFR 1.136 and Check for \$ _____
- ☐ Notice of Appeal and Check for \$ _____
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and (1) one document
- ☐ Claim for priority and certified copies of _____ priority applications
- ☐ Issue fee transmittal and Check for \$ _____
- ☒ Other (specify) Submission of English Translation
by placing your receiving date stamp hereon and returning to deliverer.

FOH-S-D-00



Atty. Fk/wv

Due Date U, D, D *By hand
Mo. Day Yr.